APRIL 04

MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE EXPRESS

PARKLIFE FUNDING CUT - HAVE YOUR SAY

MEDWAY MUSIC CONFERENCE

WIN A RECORDING SESSION

REVIEWS, GIG LISTINGS & MUCH MORE

FREE AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MM2K**

Firstly, I'd like to say a big thank you to Maker and Second Sun for their fantastic sets at **MM2K's gig** at the Beacon Court last month. Also, thank you to everyone who made my birthday beerfest a most enjoyable experience.

Now, the serious stuff - You must have heard by now that the Council has withdrawn funding for the **Parklife festival**. This is evidence of how the Arts, in particular music, is seen by the powers that be. Please read details inside and take action. If you don't, the Council will believe that people do not care about music in this area. Please take five minutes to tell them otherwise.

Thanks to everyone who attended the **music conference** at the Tap n Tin. More events are being planned and will be workshop based. Let us know what topics you would find useful ie setting up a record studio/label, promoting yourself successfully etc.

Did you manage to get **Glastonbury** tickets? We also now have RSI from hitting redial and nightmares about Aloud.com. Hope to see you there.

We have a great **competition** this month, in association with Broadwood Music Productions. You can win a recording session worth £299 at its state of the art studio in Newington. The winner will be announced in the May issue of MME.

One last, important thing. Please visit www.medwaymusic.net/mme and answer a few questions on Medway **rehearsal facilities**. Your input could result in a brand new studio facility.

Have a great Easter holiday. Peace and all things great,

Nicky H
x

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April Gig Listing

MME has joined forces with Medway Music 2000 (MM2K) to bring you comprehensive gig listings, the latest info on music events, workshops, gig and EP reviews and interviews.

www.medwaymusic.net

Circulation: 756

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0790 452 1923

PARKLIFE - HAVE YOUR SAY

Without any discussion, funding for Parklife Festival 2004 has been denied. If you love music and think our scene is worth speaking out for - we'll join you...
Views taken from correspondence with the Council leaders, follows...
"It is the only festival in the area, which makes me feel proud to be part of Medway's community. Parklife gave me the inspiration to create a free, local music magazine two years ago (MME). I talk to many musicians because of this and know how annoyed they will feel at this decision. It will set the development of our music scene back significantly. There are so many people, including promoters and MM2K, who put so much of their time and effort into supporting the Medway music scene for no gain other than job satisfaction and the love of music. It is a great shame that our own Council does not support these people in return.
It gives local musicians the unique chance to play alongside bigger bands, to huge audiences. I am saddened that Our Council promotes a commitment to cultural diversity and yet takes away the largest festival in the Southeast that encourages community involvement and celebration.
I understand that budget cuts have to be made, but it seems unfair that this is done by taking away the most promising, inspiring and useful event (in terms of building community spirit and encouraging Medway talent.)"

Nicola Howlett
Editor, Medway & Maidstone Express
0790 452 1923

"MM2K are extremely disappointed that Medway Council have withdrawn funding for Parklife Festival as a result of budget cuts. These cuts have seriously affected arts services, in particular music, which contradicts Medway Council's own programme of cultural development.
Parklife Festival is an established and unique platform giving the local community the opportunity to experience the diversity of music within Medway, and gives local musicians the chance to perform to a large and varied audience alongside internationally established artists such as Medway's own Billy Childish and James Taylor Quartet.
MM2K are absolutely committed to the development of music in Medway and in supporting local musicians, we will explore all ways possible of continuing the Parklife festival.
We do intend to have some sort of Parklife event this year with or without Medway Council's support, but it may be greatly scaled down and largely paid for from our own funds, which isn't a huge amount.
MM2K will continue to support music within Medway, but this is your music scene, Parklife is your festival, if you want music to grow and prosper here then it is up to you to act now.

We encourage anyone who has an opinion on this matter to write or e-mail Wes Hollands, Portfolio holder for leisure and culture, and Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway council and copy in the press as well. It may not change the decisions already taken this year, but it will show support for music in Medway and hopefully make Medway Council think about support for music in the future. **If people don't make a stand in the simplest of ways then there really isn't much hope**, anybody can write a letter or e-mail. Email nixta@btopenworld.com for a cut & paste council list of email addresses."

Many thanks
Jay Allen, MM2K
Promoters of Parklife festival

"Whilst your decision has already been made on this matter, I understand that consultation was not made across the board and is a biased decision... Nobody wants to see essential services cut but I can't help but notice that you have a distinct interest in Rochester and disregard the rest of Medway... It is very clear to myself and my associates that had we been properley consulted and represented then we could have come to a far more favourable conclusion regarding the investment in the arts in medway...Money has been made available, it's just that you choose to spend it differently. My only desire is to see this area prosper and become a cultural and artistic epicentre that matches our rivals in the rest of the country.
I will of course continue with my campaign against those who deny us funding for the Arts. Musicians and performers are in a unique position because we have a platform to voice our concerns to hundreds of future voters and I am sure this will be reflected at the ballot box."

Yours Sincerely

Dale St.Clair
Opus Trees

MEDWAY MUSIC CONFERENCE

Thank you to everyone who attended MM2K's first music seminar. A special thanks to The Barbs, who played a storming set.
MM2K are planning more events and workshops, please email jayallen8@hotmail.com with suggestions and ideas of what topics you would like covered in future workshops.

This is your music scene, please make your voice heard.

LETTERS...

A word from UpCDownC...

..."Hello there. Since we're going to be fairly quiet (on the public face of things anyway) for a little while, we thought we'd offer something to tide you all over. Joey Tempest - a new and previously unreleased track is now available for download on the multimedia page.
The song was recorded during sessions with Jim Riley at Ranscombe Studios in Rochester at the end of last year. Some of you will probably recognise it from gigs over the past six months or so. Hope you enjoy it!
www.upcdownc.com/mm.php
We'll be back in touch soon, take care!"
Love, Up-C Down-C Left-C Right-C ABC + Start

Hi nixta,

Its amu here. Just thought I'd let everyone know that since November 2003, Abinger Drive are no longer a band due to Toby (electric guitar) getting married and travelling the world. We didn't think it was worth staying together as we could not get the same sort of buzz with any new members. Wayne (drums) and Chris (bass) are currently in a Maidstone based band called REVOKE.
I am currently working towards a 5 piece band with Steve (keyboards) and Maidstone boy Ben Jones. It's going to be full on garage rock with influences of The Who, Dylan, Neil young etc very different from Abinger Drive! Should have our first gig in May. I'm also going to be bringing out some solo stuff that's being recorded so I'll let MME have a copy when finished.
Anyway I just thought I'd let everyone know whatís going on and a big thank you to everyone that bought Abinger Drive's music and supported us at all the gigs. We all had a great time in the two years together and were very close to signing a deal with the dodgiest Greek bloke ever! We are all still good mates and thatís the important thing!

Cheers
amu

Bring back Fipzie magic

Fipzie had his camera stolen, a Pentax Optio S3 in the Tap and Tin saturday night 13/3/04. "I am currently trying to buy a house so I have more important things to spend my money on, so from now on FiPZiE.CoM will cease to be until further notice. Hopefully sooner rather than later. £300 cameras are not easy to come by. I do this site with little or no outside help at all. (Thanks to all those who do help). To the thief - If I see that camera again, I will recognise it. I will beat the living daylights out of ANYONE I see with it. It is security marked. There will be no more photos until I get another decent camera - which for the long term I cannot afford. So I take this opportunity to say thankyou to each and every visitor to my site, which at its grand peak last month reached 10,000 hits per week. I have met some great people and had the best of times, but for now, not forever - it's over. Photographic Evidence that fun 'could be had in Medway' until I had my camera nicked' .

Hi there,
It is not often we have the chance to offer you something extra, free, at no cost, gratis.
But we now have a Kentgigs Classified Section with almost a blank canvas.
For a while at least, YOU the loyal fans of Kentgigs can put up Classified Ads free of charge.
Of course, you do not get the amount of space given as in our paid Ads. But it is free, painless and we hope it will be useful to those who don't spend every hour of the day worrying about gigs and might want to buy/sell a car, a house or rent property etc.
Go to **www.kentgigs.com**- Have a stooge around and when you find the section that interests you - Place a free Ad.
Over 700 Kent musos have placed adverts to find other musicians, tachers etc on our Musicians Web. Have a look. Get in touch if you want to sell your band's CD online.

Chris at www.kentgigs.com

Hello MME,
Jim Here From the old PuNyFisH! We are back together (after/during University) and wouldn't mind some support. . . if any! Support slots would be cool. We have recently acquired a sampler-ist and manager. Let's see if we explode!!!
If interested e-mail: punyjim@hotmail.com

Skurge are no more...
...a sad loss to the metal heads out there this means that bass player and tattooist extraordinaire, Jono, is available
he can be reached via info@skurge.co.uk

GIG REVIEWS

GILT AT RAF CLUB

Gilt Trip, Sibling Rivalry and Kryptonic

The RAF Club seems to be an up and coming venue with gigs every Wednesday. They seem to be listed in MME but nowhere else - another good reason to make sure you get or download your copy (www.medwaymusic.net/mme)
First up were Gilt Trip and some comfortably heavy rock. The vocals were challenged a bit in some of the quieter moments. Maybe a bit of reverb would help. The guitars were struggling on some technical stuff but overall the sound was okay. I get the impression they can do better. They certainly had a reasonable fan base in attendance and are worth catching again some time.
Sibling Rivalry describe themselves as a classic rock and metal band. They seemed to cover all stations from Hendrix to Ozzie Osborne, with a detour for Yngwie Malmsteen, and seemed to take the mostly younger crowd with them on the journey.
This is the latest line up of a band that's been through a few changes but they've kept the excellent lead and harmony lead/rhythm guitarists. If you like your guitar this is probably the band to see - more fiddly bits than an Ikea flat pack!
One of the lessons that came out of the recent MM2K seminar for musicians and the Medway music scene was the need for everyone in the music community to work together and this band seem to be trying to put something back into the scene by running a jam night at The Command House on some Tuesday nights at which they encourage new performers, new bands and those that want to try something new. They have had a few problems so email **sibling_rivalry@hotmail.com** to check dates.
Kryptonic gave us guttural lyrics and a reasonable grunge sound. They need to work on their stage presence but overall they are coming together as a band and the regular sessions at the RAF Wednesday nights have given them the opportunity to develop a fan base. They seem to have a new drummer or maybe he's just learnt new tricks; either way it's really improved the overall sound. Oh, and they seem to have disguised the most eye catching guitar in Medway by painting most of it black ñ anyone know why?

www.thegilttrip.com
http://siblingrivalry.mysite.freeserve.com
http://groups.msn.com/Kriptonic/home

David Wraight

Email nixta@btopenworld.com, subject:subscribe, to receive a link each month to download the latest issue of MME

FLAT LINE THEORY AT BEACON COURT

Up for the challenge

This relatively new three piece band from Maidstone have been together for about a year and have played a handful of gigs. That lack of experience showed in the slightly hesitant start but as the set progressed, their confidence increased and they seemed to start enjoying the gig rather than worrying about it. On the plus side, the band took the time to announce themselves, tell us about the songs and even thank the audience - a few tricks that even more experienced bands sometimes forget.
They gave us some heavier numbers like Deep in Thought but also a number called Voice of Reason with lots of tempo changes - a challenge which they seemed well up to. The set closed with a short acoustic number and then into one of their heavier numbers. A neat finish for Flat Line Theory, and another promising new band to watch develop.

David Wraight

COMPETITION

Don't miss out! Email now...

Broadwood Music Productions is offering one of you guys, a **two day recording package** for your band, worth £299 at its state of the art digital recording and editing studio in Newington. You and your band will work with a producer and sound engineer to make a quality three song demo, alternatively you can use the time to record and fully produce your band's first single.
All you have to do is **email** your name, band name, contact phone number and email address to nixta@btopenworld.com, headed 'Competition'. One entry per group/act please! Winners will be announced in the **May issue of MME**.

Email reviews to **nixta@btopenworld.com**.
We would really like to hear from people who regularly attend a particular venue. Also, let us know if you would like us to come and review your gig or be featured within the magazine.

GIG LISTINGS

APRIL 2004

Thurs 1st
Beacon Court BoTBs Hindsight + Goblin Trailer Park + PKO £1
Maker @ Feedback, Bar M

Fri 2nd
An evening with Davey Rumsey (Acoustic folk, rock and blues from this local singer/songwriter) @ The New Art Centre Cafe, Chatham High Street. Soft drinks and snacks are provided but you are welcome to bring your own alcohol 7 - 10pm £2.50
Hot Rats (Folk/Celtic) Angel Inn, West Malling
Dragon Rock @ Beacon Court £3
Sweet F.A. (Glam Rock Tribute) Fleur-De-Lis, Burham
Open Stage at Local Hero Records, Canterbury 8pm Free
Torment Rock @ Royal Albion, Maidstone
Maker + Long Weekend + Second Sun @ Bar M
Nine Days To No One, Celestial Anxiety Hindsight and Inside the mind of Henry Holmes @ Ashford Homelands

Sat 3rd
Second Sun + Wurzel (ex Motorhead). @ Beacon Court
Bernie Watts (Unplugged Old School Rock) at Local Hero Records, Canterbury 2pm Free
D.J Carl Does Your Mutha (Funk Soul Jazz Hip Hop) @ Walnut Tree, Maidstone Free
Last Laugh @ Flame-In-Go Mental Rock Nite @ Flamingo Park, Sidcup Bypass, Chislehurst, Kent
Under 18's night @ Bar M with Stone Munki

Mon 5th
Hed:Strong + Get The Skinny @ Bar M £2

Weds 7th
The Dirty Backbeats headline Sound in Leicester Square, London 10.45pm £5/£4 with flyers More info visit: www.thedirtybackbeats.co.uk
The Gummy Babies @ The Fleur De Lys Burham, nr Rochester 9pm
Kryptonic + Gilt Trip @ RAF Club

Thurs 8th
Tapt + Maker + Two Stone Shoes @ Brixton Telegraph. Coach is being arranged. Next day is Good Friday so no work in the morning! Contact Steve for more details: 07763978768 or visit: www.tapt.co.uk
BoTBs @ Beacon Court Immune to C.W + Kingskin + 3 Legged Dog £1 8.45pm

Fri 9th
Calling Nova @ Tap n Tin
Godless Reds + support @ Feedback, Bar M £1
The Gummy Babies @ The Three Gardners Strood 8:45
Bad to the Bone @ Beacon Court

Sat 10th
Rachel Stamp @ Tap n Tin 9pm, entry £5 adv/£6
The Gummy Babies Afternoon appearance at Easter Festival, The Command House
The Gummy Babies with Stanxa + Slingshot Around The Moon 8pm £3 No Under 16's @ The Oast House, Rainham
One Step Behind (Madness tribute) @ Beacon Court £5 Under 18is at Bar M with On a Friday + CCTV

Sun 11
Open Air Concert All Day inc. Kingskin + Sibling Rivalry @ Command House

Mon 12th
The Gummy Babies @ The Command House Easter Festival approx 8:30
Jam Session @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burham, Rochester
Exit 27 @ Royal Albion, Maidstone 4pm (Havock Lane Maidstone Kent Me14 1qe 01622 691789) Rock 4pm
Bad Pennies (rock) @ Walnut Tree, Maidstone
Neon Halo + Flat Line Theory @ Bar M

Tues 13th
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder + Ran for days @ Tunbridge Wells Forum

Weds 14th
Indie nite @ RAF Club with Carpetburn + Tapt + The Meek

Thurs15th
BoTBs @ Beacon Court with Parker + Stanxa + Dayfall £1 8.45pm

Fri 16th
The Labels + Ready Steady Go @ Feedback, Bar M £1
Da Bodgas (Rock) @ Beacon Court Free
Defzone Event @ Tap n Tin with Hindsight + Stoftype (Emo & Artrock) 9pm £2 No Under 18's
Bottleneck Blues Club with Paul Lamb & The King Snakes + Paul Malsom Blues @ Zaffa, Week St, Maidstone
Ready Steady Go + support @ Bar M

Sat 17th
The Phobias + The Shag Monroes + Vicarage Lane @ Command House 8pm Free
AvillA + The Long Weekend downstairs @ the Manor. New event for under 18's. £5 Doors open 6pm
The Phobias @ the Command House 8- 1am
By Jovi @ Beacon Court £5
Defzone Event @ Tap n Tin with Fundamental Skillz + Don't Die Of Ignorance + Cortex Metal DJ's (Emo) 10pm £2 No Under 18's
Under 18is night at Bar M with Avilla + Long Weekend

Sun 18th
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder @ The Hobgoblin, Brighton

Mon 19th
Chasing Chaos + Catchtheeye @ Bar M

Tues 20th
Cherubs + The Libertines + Buzzcocks + Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster + Miss Black America + The Others at the Love Music Hate Racism gig @ The Borderline, London
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder + Ran for days @ The Beer Cart Arms, Canterbury

Weds 21st
Catch the eye + Chasing Chaos + Rabbit Thesbian @ RAF Club
Know/Where + Support @ Bar M £1
Inside the mind of henry holmes + Hed:strong @ The Clapham Grand

Thurs 22nd
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder + Ran for days @ Wyvern Hall, Sittingbourne

Fri 23rd
Club Skank @ The Command House 8- 1am Mopeds welcome
Labels + Support @ Bar M
Cadillac @ Beacon Court

Sat 24th
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder + Ran for days + One Day Elliott @ Red Lion, Gravesend
Under 18's night @ Bar M with PH Fat + support

Mon 26th
Headstone + Keratin @ Bar M

Weds 28th
Rock nite @ RAF Club with Ink thief + Aprilla

Fri 30th
Know/where + Support @ Bar M
3dbs down + Morgans Puff Adder + Ran for days + One Day Elliott @ The Stripes Club. Folkestone

Check **www.medway.music.net**

for the latest gig updates

REGULAR CLUB NITES:

Every Friday @ TapnTin - warning:rockets

DJ Tyn-b and the rivals play the best in new and old indie.alternative.rock.nroll. £2

Every Friday Feedback @ Manor Club

Indie/Northern Soul/Britpop,60's+70's bands upstairs then club below

VENUES:

The Barge, 63 Layfield Rd, Gillingham

Bar M, 3 New Road, Chatham, 01634 818333

The Beacon Court Tavern, Canterbury Street, Gillingham

The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham

Eagle Tavern, Rochester High St

Fleur-D e-Lis, Burham, 125 Rochester Rd, Burham, Rochester 01634 861193

Jazz & Blues Cafe, Week St, Maidstone 01732 842452

Local Hero Records, Canterbury 01227 760801

Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford 01322 291100

The Oast House, Rainham 07951 132840

Pulse 79 High Street, Chatham

RAF Club, opp. Command House, Dock Road, Chatham

The Red Lion, Crete Hall Road, Gravesend

Royal Albion, Havock Lane, Maidstone 01622 691789

The Tap n Tin, 24 Railway Street, Chatham

Union Bar, 1-9 Pudding Lane, Maidstone

Walnut Tree, Maidstone 01622 727260

Gig listings are published free of charge. Email details of your event, gig or club night to nixta@btopenworld.com

GIG REVIEWS

10 SIDE ZERO - FEEDBACK BAR M

Operatic and brave

A crowd of 50 people gathered in Bar M to watch 10 Side Zero - a good turn out for a Monday night. Having not seen them before I was half expecting a mass of noise and inaudible screaming into the mic, how wrong I was. They kicked off with a lively performance from the start - the solid bass lines bounced along, George's powerful drumming providing the energy and John's impressive performance on guitar/vocals caught my attention from the off. Dynamic songs draw you in with delicate harmonies before spitting you back out again with a burst of musical madness. The band were performing their hearts out, but to my surprise the audience seemed a little "stiff" - this is more a fault of the layout of the venue than anything. Everyone was clearly enjoying the set, but seemed a little reluctant to "let themselves go".
Unafraid of experimentation, mid-set John turned to the piano and bass player Clint sang through a tannoy, their sound now becoming comparable to Muse, I'm impressed by the almost operatic performance that is unfolding before me. The end of their set saw the band prove their ability to play varied styles, with funky rhythms that almost tempted me to start doing my "John Travolta" in the middle of the floor. Definitely recommend you to check them out for yourselves-
www.10sidezero.co.uk

Steve Peace

Choir of King's School at Rochester Cathedral

Part of MM2K's remit is about the many and varied musical styles available to us and at 1400 years old this must be the longest running cover act in Medway. Tonight's covers include Handel and Hayden and the support act is the Orchestra Roffensis. So what d'ya get? Superb soaring vocals in a venue built to amplify and enhance the sound, underpinned by the impressive sound of the Mander organ - not very portable with 3808 pipes ranging from 4ft to 32ft but a quality noise all the same.
New to the act, Isabella Cheevers gave an impressive performance of Handel's 'Let the Bright Seraphim', with some beautifully controlled trill. The choir and soloists gave an enjoyable performance of Hayden's 'Missa in angustis'.
Okay, not very Saturday night out but great stuff.
All music is valid!

David Wraight

FUZZ AT TAP N TIN

Simple: they rock

A pair of socks, a bottle of White Lightning, the new Busted single, a watch battery, a toothbrush, a return trip on the Dartford Crossing, a tea towel, a tub of margarine, a pot plant, a copy of Country Life, a shoehorn. These things cost two pounds. With two quid in your pocket, you could have any one of them, yours to keep forever. But could you have a great Saturday night out with them? Unlikely (OK, with the exception of the White Lightning). However, last Saturday, I chose not to spend my two quid on a new toothbrush and instead paid the same amount to see Fuzz, live at the Tap n Tin. False teeth might be around the corner as a result, but it was worth it.
A lot has been written about Fuzz in these and other pages, so I don't really need to tell you much about this tight, smooth band and their seemingly effortless talent. Nor is there any need to tell you how much they put into their performance or to remind you to take every opportunity to see Tom, Tom and Clayton before the inevitable happens and tickets to see them will cost more than the price of a pint.

Danny Allen

Ps. Thanks for the birthday dance Tom! - Nik :)

NEWS

MM2K MEDWAY MUSIC 2000

COMMAND A REFURB

After a massive refurb (the place looks Good!) the Command House will have a launch party and Easter Bonanza on April 10,11,12th. The outdoor gig will include the following bands: The Minerals, Big Wednesday, Opus Bridge, UK Pornstars, The Gummy Babies, Gilt Trip, Kingskin, Sibling Rivalry, Wench, Kryptonic, Stone Munki, The Thing, Rubbernecks, Shun, Djs and the obligatory Yard of Ale Competition. Over £150 in cash prizes will be up for grabs. 21 live bands and bungee jumping will be at the Command House for its May bank holiday event - put it in your diary!

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN

IKARA COLT have been confirmed to play the Tap n Tin for the first time on the 5th May as part of MM2K's Spring Arts Festival, in association with Medway Council. Local support will be chosen, and also supporting are South London's finest The Rocks. Ticket prices are to be confirmed but those who get an email from the mailing list have a chance to pre order tickets.
www.tapntin.co.uk

FIND YOUR MUSE

I have been receiving 'The Muse's Muse' an email newsletter for the past few months and it is a great resource of inspiration for songwriters. MME asked U.S Editor Jodi to tell you about it - "The Muse's Muse is your place for songwriting tips, tools, interactivities and connecting with other songwriters around the world. Drop by for musician classifieds, busy message boards, links, songwriting association listings, music reviews, artist spotlights, copyright and publishing info, articles, interviews, a monthly newsletter and lots more!

The Muse's Muse Songwriting Resource **www.musesmuse.com**

OPUS TREES ROCK THE UK

The Opus Trees tour kicks off in May, promoting their long awaited new EP. They will be playing in Essex, Brighton, Newcastle, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Hull and the Green Festival.
Visit **www.opustrees.com** for full details.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The RAF Club in Chatham will be staging a 12 hour musicfest on 27th June, from 12l 2pm. 14l 6 bands will be performing punk, metal and rock with a DJ playing in between sets.

DOWNLOAD US BABY

If you would like to receive the PDF download link each month for the latest issue of MME, email nixta@btopenworld.com, subject : subscribe.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Please, please, please take 3 minutes out of your hectic lives to answer a few questions on www.medwaymusic.net/mme. This could result in a brand new studio/rehearsal facility in Chatham. MME will love you forever for this...

Check MM2K's site at
www.medwaymusic.net
for gig listings, details on workshops and opportunities, links and more. You can also download a PDF of this magazine here.

ANTMONKEY APRIL FOOLS FACTS

In sad news today, it appears that legendary golfer Colin Montgomery has been savagely murdered by a monkey. The Simian assassin is said to have stabbed Mr Montgomery, aged 54, in his saggy man tits. APRIL FOOL!

Yeah ok, so some April Fools pranks are shite but what is it that makes us do these senseless things to the ones we love each and every year? When I was eleven, my older brother emptied a whole bag of sugar into my school shoes and coat pockets, much to my mother's amusement. When I was 18, I loosened the brakes on his wheelchair and all of a sudden April Fools Day isn't funny anymore.

There seems to be a huge double standard at work here; the little pranks are acceptable because essentially no physical pain can come from them. What about the mental torture of being followed around the playground by a (literal) army of ants, hungry for a glucose fix? I think the equation is; the cheekier the prankster, the greater the success rate. **How far is too far** with April Fools pranks, where exactly do we draw the line? Is belting a midget acceptable? One instance in 1996 saw a Mrs Owens from Middlesborough con people into donating money to a bogus cancer fund, only to spend it on a weekend break in Mauritius, where she contracted skin cancer whilst sunbathing. (Who says God is without a sense of irony!)

One thing I can definitely tell you from experience, is that you must never, ever, under ANY circumstances, substitute your mum's thrush cream for Deep Heat.

Ever.

AntMonkey

GIG REVIEWS

JOHN OTWAY AND THE COWPOKERS AT THE BEACON COURT

OTWAY- NOW AND THEN

John Otway's train got stuck at Rochester, leaving him only minutes to get to the gig, so his fans had no choice but to relax and have another drink or two. They needed it to be prepared for what they were about to witness!

John Otway's Big Band packed out the Beacon Court, ably supported by The Cowpokers (big hats, big pants, big music.) Audience participation was the name of the game with a supposed bull's semen drinking competition (in reality it was cornrflour), the milking of udders, a bean eating game and a coconut choir on 'Hot (g)Love'. In their own words, "The Cowpokers do more than play music - their audiences become involved in a 'sad country and western fantasy', where people behave like cattle, drink cold baked beans and do other 'cowboy and cowgirl things'. Their music synthesises the worst of country music and glam rock - A bit like an audio Escher drawing."

I first saw Otway at The Lyceum in '77. His first hit, 'Cor Baby, That's Really Free', was at no 27 in the charts. Memories of that night: Wild Willy Barrett had to tune Otway's guitar for him, and I had to leave before the end to get the last train home. But I had seen enough to be hooked.
When I saw him at a Maidstone pub in '92, he played to just a handful of people. Did this put him off? No! This is a man who has made a success out of failure. He never gives up.
Wearing his trademark black trousers, white shirt and a lot less hair than in '77, Otway launched the set at The Beacon with 'Cor Baby.' The crowd went wild and stayed wild as the band worked its way through 'Beware of the Flowers', 'Delilah' (Weetabix ad version), and his second hit, 'Bunsen Burner' which reached the Top Ten last year, and features Otway on Theremin. The more thoughtful 'Josephine' balanced out a set, which included 'Crazy Horses' (more Theremin), and a unique version of 'House of the Rising Sun'.
The thing about Otway is that he loves what he does. He literally throws himself into his work: from the top of a stepladder. He loves the crowd and the crowd loves him. Maybe I don't get out much, but this was the best night out I've had in years. And I didn't have to leave early to get the last train.
John Otway, you're just a great big attention seeker and we love you.

Maria Bradley

Ps. Otway is rumoured to be playing at Glastonbury this year, so check him out if you're one of the lucky few who managed to get tickets.

COMPETITION

Don't miss out! Email now...

Broadwood Music Productions is offering one of you guys, a **two day recording package** for your band, worth £299 at its state of the art digital recording and editing studio in Newington. You and your band will work with a producer and sound engineer to make a quality three song demo, alternatively you can use the time to record and fully produce your band's first single.
All you have to do is **email** your name, band name, contact phone number and email address to nixta@btopenworld.com, headed 'Competition'. One entry per group/act please! Winners will be announced in the **May issue of MME**.

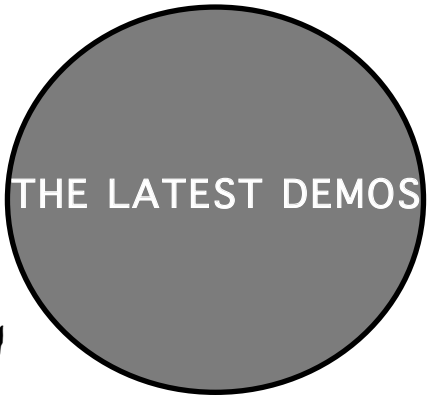
I am on a bit of an interviewing mission at the moment, so email questions and who you would like to see interviewed to nixta@btopenworld.com and I'll do my best

NEXT MONTH...

letters

GIG REVIEWS

competition winner announced



Parklife update

Email **nixta@btopenworld.com**, visit **www.medwaymusic.net** for magazine download and news, **www.mnmbands.co.uk** for downloads, chatroom, gig listings and more...

Thanks to the following contributors this month:
David Wraight, Piggy, Steve Peace, Maria Bradley, Danny Allen, the bands and readers

MME is published by Me each month and is distributed throughout the area to places and people that support live music. It is free of charge to you readers, but a big thanks goes out to venues and shop owners for contributing to the production costs.
While every care is taken to provide acccurate information, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, no matter how caused. Please check with the venue concerned regarding events, as details can change at short notice.
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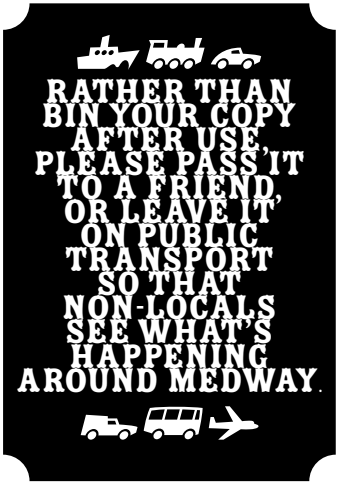
We aim to be fair in everything we write, reviews are written by gig-goers making personal judgements (which do not always match those of the publisher). Go check the talent out for yourself and tell us what you think.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SITES

Bands...

www.alienglish.com
www.aswesleep.com
www.avillaband.com
www.callingnova.com
www.controlofreason.com
www.delayedexperience.co.uk
www.freewebs.com/lyca
www.freewebs.com/stonemunki
www.freewebs.com/tapt
www.fuzznroll.co.uk
www.godlessreds.co.uk
http://groups.msn.com/Neonhalo
www.insidethemindofhenryholmes.com
www.johnotway.com
www.longweekend.co.uk
www.morganspuffadder.com
http://mysite.freeserve.com/thegummybabies
www.nexusband.tk
www.ninedaystonoone.com
www.onedayelliott.co.uk
www.opustrees.com
www.orphanweb.net
www.parasite1.tk
Reasonable Doubt www.rdmetal.cjb.net
www.2nd-sun.com
www.psst.co.uk/strangedesire
www.10sidezero.com
www.thebarbs.co.uk
www.theebillychildish.com
www.thegilttrip.com
www.3dbsdown.com
www.upcdownc.com
www.yellowsnowe.com
www.wearethemeek.co.uk

Advice and information...

www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/record.html is a guide to the major record labels and their subsidiaries
www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic
www.sonymusic.co.uk

Downloads, gigs, reviews...

MM2K site www.medwaymusic.net
www.mnmbands.co.uk
www.defiantconviction.com
www.kentindie.co.uk
www.hardplace.net
www.consorted.co.uk
www.kentgigs.com
www.skinchimney.com

Studios...

www.broadwoodmusic.com
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Images...

www.anjali.org.uk
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www.fipzie.com
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www.thecommandhouse.co.uk
www.beaconcourttavern.com
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www.tapntin.co.uk

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www.cortex-rock.co.uk